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RURAL DISTRICT OF CHELTENHAM

ANNUAL REPORT

of the



MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

FOR THE YEAR 1957.

Public Health Staff:

Medical Officer of Health:

STEPHEN KNIGHT
M.B., B.S. (Lond). M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector:

E.H. ROSSER
M.R.S.H., M.Inst.P.H.E., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors

L. GROGAN
A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
Certified Sanitary Inspector
Certified Inspector of Meats and Food

F.H. LEWIS M.A.P.H.I.

M.M. WIDDOWS A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Certified Sanitary Inspectors

J.H. WRIGHT M.B.E., M.R.S.H., F.A.P.H.I. (Part-time)



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CHELTENHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1957.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Cheltenham Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Annual Report for 1957 on the environmental hygiene and sanitary circumstances of the Rural District.

Mr. E.H. Rosser, Chief Public Health Inspector and Surveyor, contributes that part of the Report which deals with the work of his Department, the Council's Water Undertaking and the Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

On the whole the health statistics are favourable to the Rural District. The infantile mortality rate is high, but it should be considered in conjunction with the still birth rate which is low, so that the overall perinatal mortality is much the same as elsewhere.

In the Autumn the world-wide wave of asian influenza spread into the District. Although a mild form, causing only two deaths, there was widespread illness, particularly among school children.

Restrictions on capital expenditure continue in force and have led to postponement of sewerage schemes.

Subsidies for building also are restricted to houses built for families from unfit dwellings and for old people.

I am glad to take this opportunity of thanking the Members of the Council and the Staff for their continued help and support during the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

STEPHEN KNIGHT

Medical Officer of Health

October 1958

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	81,940
Registrar-General's estimate of mid-year population (including members of the Armed Forces)	28,470
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1957)	8,714
Rateable Value (at 31.12.57)	£367,282
Sum represented by a penny	£ 1,490

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

LIVE BIRTHS	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	481	245	236
Illegitimate	23	9	14
Total	504	254	250

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population 17.7

Area Comparibility Factor (Births) 0.99

Corrected Birth Rate (17.7 x 0.99) 17.5

STILL BIRTHS

Legitimate	7	4	3
Illegitimate	1	-	1
Total	8	4	4

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 of the Population 0.28

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births) 15.8

DEATHS	239	111	128
--------	-----	-----	-----

Death rate per 1,000 of the population 8.4

Area Comparibility Factor (Deaths) 1.10

Corrected Death Rate (8.4 x 1.10) 9.2

NO. 30 DEATHS FROM PREGNANCY, CHILDBIRTH, ABORTION.

Deaths	Deaths per 1,000 total (live and still births)
Nil	Nil

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE (Infantile Mortality)

Legitimate	14	7	7
Illegitimate	1	1	-
Total	15	8	7

All infants per 1,000 Live Births 29.7

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS OF AGE.
(Neonatal Mortality)

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate 	11	6	5
Illegitimate 	1	1	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	12	7	5

Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births 23.8

POPULATION

The Registrar General's estimate of the population for 1957 is 28,470 and again shows an increase of over 1,000 people on the previous year.

The natural increase in population, excess of births over deaths was 265.

BIRTH RATE

The number of births also showed an increase, 504 in 1957 as against 456 in 1956, the Birth Rate being 17.7 births per 1000 of the population as compared with the rate 16.1 for England and Wales.

DEATH RATE

There were 239 deaths in 1957, no less than 63 fewer than in 1956, giving a low Death Rate of 8.4 deaths per 1000 of the population.

The age distribution of the people in the District now shows a lower proportion of older people as compared with the rest of the country. So that due allowance can be given to this feature, the Registrar General calculates an Area Comparability Factor of 1.10. Even so the corrected Death Rate 9.2 compares favourably with the Death Rate 11.5 for England and Wales.

INFANT MORTALITY

As against seven infantile deaths in 1956 there were 15 such deaths in 1957, making the infantile mortality at the rate of 29.7 deaths of infants under one year of age per 1000 live births.

This high figure compares unfavourably with the rate 22.32 for Gloucestershire and the rate 23 for England and Wales.

Particulars could not be traced of one infant death assigned to the District and of the remaining 14 deaths the cause was given as prematurity in no less than six instances.

Eleven of the infants died in the neonatal period, i.e. within four weeks of birth, making the neonatal death rate 23.8 deaths per 1000 live births, as compared with the rate in Gloucestershire 16.38 and in England and Wales 16.5.

Death of the infant in this period is bound up with the health of the mother as is a still birth. These two problems should therefore be considered together. Thus while the infantile mortality rate is unfavourable to the District, the still birth rate is favourable. The still birth rate was 15.8 per 1000 (live and still) births against the Gloucestershire rate 21.78 and England and Wales rate 22.4.

The overall position is shown in the perinatal mortality (still births and deaths of infants under one week of age) which for the Rural District is 37 compared with 36.2 for England and Wales.

CANCER

Fifty-six people died from cancer, four more than in 1956. Seven men and one woman died of cancer of the lung.

CAUSES OF DEATH

The causes of death in the following table are classified under the Abbreviated List of International Statistical Classification:

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	-
2. Tuberculosis, other	1	-
3. Syphilitic disease	1	1
4. Diphtheria	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis	-	-
8. Measles	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	1
10. Malignant neoplasms, stomach	1	4
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	7	1
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	3
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	3
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	10	17
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-
16. Diabetes	1	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	9	15
18. Coronary disease, angina	22	13
19. Hypertension with heart disease	-	2
20. Other heart disease	10	25
21. Other circulatory diseases	2	7
22. Influenza	3	2
23. Pneumonia	4	6
24. Bronchitis	7	-
25. Other disease of the respiratory system	-	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	-
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	2	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	2	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	1	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	13	18
33. Motor vehicle accidents	6	1
34. All other accidents	2	4
35. Suicide	1	-
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	111	128
	<hr/>	<hr/>

BIRTH, DEATH AND INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES
IN THE DISTRICT FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS

	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>
Birth Rate (per 1000 population)	15.7	17.6	17.3	16.7	17.7
Death Rate (-do-)	8.7	9.1	10.1	11.0	8.4
Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1000 live births)	31.0	23.0	24.5	15.4	29.7
Deaths of infants under 1 year.					
Neonatal Mortality Rate (per 1000 live births)	13.0	16.0	22.3	8.8	23.8
(Deaths of infants under 1 month)					

FOR COMPARISON, THE BIRTH, DEATH and INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES FOR ENGLAND AND WALES etc. ARE GIVEN BELOW.

	<u>England & Wales</u>	<u>County of Glos.</u>	<u>Cheltenham Rural District</u>
Live Births	16.1	16.4	17.7
Still Birth Rate (per 1000 total births)	22.4	21.78	15.8
Death Rate (per 1000 population)	11.5	10.41	8.4
Infantile Mortality Rate (Deaths of infants under 1 year) (per 1000 live births)	23	22.32	29.7
Neonatal Mortality Rate (deaths of infants under 1 month) (per 1000 live births)	16.5	16.38	23.8

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1957
(Excluding Tuberculosis)

	<u>Under 1 year</u>		<u>1 - 4</u>		<u>5 - 14</u>		<u>15 - 24</u>		<u>25 and over</u>		<u>Total</u>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Scarlet Fever	-	-	1	1	5	3	-	1	-	-	6	5
Whooping Cough	3	3	18	8	7	21	-	-	-	1	28	33
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	3	4	114	81	111	121	1	1	-	-	229	207
(Poliomyelitis												
{ Paralytic	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	4	-
{ Non-paralytic	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	2	1
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
	<u>Under 5 yrs.</u>		<u>5 - 14</u>		<u>15 - 44</u>		<u>45 - 64</u>		<u>65 and over</u>		<u>Total</u>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Pneumonia	2	-	1	1	1	1	1	2	-	3	5	7
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	6

Scarlet Fever

The incidence of scarlet fever was light. 10 cases were

notified as against 20 cases in 1956. All the cases were isolated at home, a practice which did not cause spread of the disease. No deaths occurred.

Whooping Cough

Whooping cough was more prevalent during the year, sixty-one cases being notified as compared with thirty-eight in 1956. There were no deaths. 301 children were vaccinated against whooping cough in 1957, either by Child Welfare Service or family doctors.

Diphtheria

No cases were notified. The District has been free from diphtheria since 1949. (Immunisation details shown on next page)

Measles

1957 was an epidemic year for measles - there were 436 cases, 235 more than in 1956. No deaths occurred.

Poliomyelitis

There were seven cases of poliomyelitis, four of them being of the paralytic type. Three men over thirty years of age suffered severe attacks with residual paralysis of limbs. Vaccination against poliomyelitis was extended and offered to expectant mothers and children born in the years 1943 to 1957. The number of such vaccinations was limited by the amount of vaccine available.

Food Poisoning

No cases of food poisoning occurred, a state which reflects on the standard of cleanliness in the food trade in the district.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

(In relation to Child Population)

Number of children who had completed a full course of immunisation at any time up to 31st. December, 1957.

	under 1 yr.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	Total
Age at 31.12.57. i.e. born in year	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	

Number immunised	45	295	305	282	340	408	343	355	263	377	293	207	163	231	211	4118
Number of children immunised in:																
					<u>1957</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1950</u>				
Primary		401	368	317	328	445	416	429	209							
Maintenance		319	380	324	133	211	311	247	166							

401 children were immunised during the year, 274 of these were babies of under one year of age, representing an acceptance rate of 54% for this age group.

Although more children are being immunised and more parents are arranging for babies under one year of age to be so protected, increased efforts are required to reach the object of the Diphtheria Immunisation Campaign, i.e. immunisation of 75% of babies under one year of age.

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

The following table sets out the details of the records of vaccinations received during the year:

	Under 1 yr.	1	2 - 4	5 - 14	15 or over	Total
Vaccination	189	9	8	7	8	221
Re-vaccination	-	-	1	3	14	18

Proportion of children vaccinated under one year of age, expressed as a percentage of the number of births during the year:

<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>
32	33	38	31	34	42	38

There has been a slight decrease in the number of vaccinations during the year and the proportion of children vaccinated under one year of age has fallen from 42% in 1956 to 38% in 1957.

The proportion of vaccinated people in the community falls short of the figure required to be an effective barrier against the spread of the disease.

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases

	<u>Children</u>		<u>All Persons</u>	
	0 - 4	5 - 14	M.	F.
Respiratory	-	-	3	3
Meninges & C.N.S.	-	-	-	-
Other forms	-	-	-	-

Deaths

Respiratory	2
Meninges & C.N.S.	Nil
Other forms	1

Tuberculosis Register

The number of cases on the register, 31st. December, 1957, was as follows:-

<u>Respiratory</u>			<u>C.N.S.</u>			<u>Other Forms</u>			<u>All Forms</u>
M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	Total
84	55	139	2	1	3	16	18	34	176

Six new cases were notified and these were all pulmonary, there were three deaths.

This disease at last shows evidence of being effectively controlled, this being due to the preventive measures which have

been taken.

Two important instruments in the prevention of tuberculosis are Mass Radiography and B.C.G. vaccination of 13 year old school children.

More and more parents are asking for their children to be vaccinated with B.C.G. vaccine. In this way the adolescent is protected at a time of life when he is likely to fall a victim of the disease.

The Council are able to help in preventing the spread of pulmonary tuberculosis by ensuring that every tuberculosis patient is properly housed. If such a person has a separate bedroom the risk of spread to other people in the house is cut to a minimum.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Food and Drugs Act, 1938 - Clean Food, and Food Hygiene Regulations 1955.

Byelaws made under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, are in force for securing hygienic methods in the Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food and Sale of Food in the open air.

Food shops and similar establishments are inspected regularly to ensure that the food is wholesome and that the premises comply with requirements.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Section 47: Removal to Suitable Premises of Persons in need of Care and Attention.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1951. (Section 1)

These Acts give local Authorities powers for the compulsory removal of aged or sick people in need of care and attention and which they are unable to provide for themselves and are not receiving from other people.

The compulsory powers were not used during the year but several old people living alone and in failing health were visited from time to time.

Home Help Service (for the Aged)

The Home Help Service continues to be of great value in rendering timely assistance to old people living alone and so enabling them to carry on.

Old People's Welfare Committee

The Council have set up an Old People's Welfare Committee to co-ordinate efforts on behalf of old people throughout the whole of the Rural District.

GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR HEALTH SERVICES

Laboratory Facilities

Samples of water, milk and ice-cream and pathological

specimens are sent for bacteriological analysis to the Public Health Laboratory, Walton Street, Oxford. The laboratory is part of the Public Health Laboratory Service of the Ministry of Health, and no charge is made for making use of its services.

Chemical examination of specimens is undertaken by Messrs. Ellis and Turner, Public Analysts, Gloucester.

Home Help Service

This service is organised by the County Council, and charge is made according to a scale of assessment.

The Home Help takes over the running of the home where the housewife is temporarily incapacitated through illness.

As noted elsewhere, the Service is very useful to old people who can no longer manage because of infirmity.

Appeals for assistance from the Home Help Service should be made to the Divisional Health Office, North East Area, Council Offices, Charlton Kings (telephone No. Cheltenham 55746)

Nursing in the Home

The area is covered by the District Nursing Association under the control of the County Council. Information is available from the Council Offices or the Divisional Health Office, North East Area, Council Offices, Charlton Kings (Tel. No. 55746).

CHILD WELFARE CENTRES (Gloucestershire County Council)

Apperley	..	..	2nd. Wednesday, 4th. Thurs.
Ashchurch (Northway Church Centre)			Alternate Tuesdays
Bishops Cleeve		..	Each Wednesday
Dumbleton	..	..	4th. Friday
Leckhampton	..	..	Each Friday
Prestbury	..	..	Each Tuesday
The Reddings	..	..	2nd. & 4th. Thursdays
Shurdington	..	..	1st. & 3rd. Wednesdays
Stanway	..	..	2nd. Friday
Stoke Orchard	..	..	Alternate Tuesdays
Swindon Village (Mobile Unit)			2nd. Tuesday
Twynning	..	..	2nd. Thursday
Winchcombe	..	..	Alternate Tuesdays
Witcombe and Bentham	..		2nd. & 4th. Wednesdays

PROGRESS IN DEALING WITH UNFIT HOUSES

Housing Acts, 1936 and 1957.

During the year the Council made further progress with its programme for dealing with unfit houses in the area. This second instalment comprised all the Category V dwellings in the parishes of Alderton, Ashchurch, Stoke Orchard and Teddington. The re-survey carried out in 1954/55 showed that there were 44 Category V houses in these four parishes, but by the beginning of this year three had already been condemned and ten had been improved and up-graded, leaving only 31 houses to be dealt with. To this number were added eight dwellings in other parishes brought forward on grounds of urgency, bringing the total number dealt with in the second instalment to 39.

By the end of the year the formal procedures had been completed, including the hearing, by the Council, where required, of owners' submissions.

WATER SUPPLY

Part of the Rural District is within the supply areas of the Gloucester and Cheltenham Corporation's water undertakings.

The Council's supply has been satisfactory in quantity and quality. All the supplies are chlorinated.

Twenty-one samples were taken for bacteriological analysis and two samples for chemical examination; in addition fifteen bacteriological and 13 chemical samples were taken from private supplies.

	<u>No. of Houses</u>	<u>No. of Houses supplied direct into house</u>	<u>No. of Houses supplied by means of stand- pipe</u>
Alderton	136	126	-
Ashchurch (incl. Aston Cross, Aston- on Carrant, Fiddington & Pamington)	442	401	-
Badgeworth (incl. Benthams and The Reddings)	490	417	-
Boddington (incl. Haydon)	83	82	-
Bishops Cleeve	1172	1159	-
+ Buckland (incl. Laverton)	78	71	7
Coberley	82	29	-
+ Cowley (Birdlip public, Cowley private supply)	100	77	-
Deerhurst (incl. Apperley and Walton Hill)	202	130	-
+ Dumbleton (incl. Gt. Washbourne, Little Washbourne & Wormington)	173	(94 67	-
Elmstone Hardwicke	68	59	-
Gotherington	132	115	-
+ Great Witcombe	31	31	-
Hawling	51	38	-
Leigh (incl. Coombe Hill)	95	93	-
Leckhampton	910	860	-
Oxenton (incl. Woolstone)	51	34	-
+ Prescott	31	26	-
Prestbury	1230	1163	-
Shurdington	339	300	-
Snowhill	71	41	-
Southam	144	144	-
Stanton	90	90	-
+ Stanway	139	137	-
Staverton	122	116	-
Stoke Orchard (incl. Tredington)	173	166	-
+ Sudeley (incl. Charlton Abbots)	42	32	-
Swindon (incl. Brockhampton)	118	112	-
Teddington (incl. Alstone)	56	56	-
Toddington	141	130	-
Twynning	263	126	-
Uckington	112	108	-
Up Hatherley	50	49	-
Walton Cardiff	15	15	-
Winchcombe (incl. Gretton & Greet)	985	968	3
Woodmancote	297	290	-
	<hr/> 8714	<hr/> 7952	<hr/> 10

+ Private or part private piped supplies.

Report by Public Health Inspector and Surveyor
on the Work of his Department for the Year 1957.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have again the honour to present the Annual Report on the work of the Department for which I am responsible to the Council.

The activities of the Council have continued to increase and in the succeeding part of the report it is proposed to deal with various duties under separate headings, unless they have already been dealt with by the Medical Officer of Health.

HOUSING

The provision of housing accommodation, whilst it is still a very important matter, is less acute than at any time since the War ended in 1945. The building of private houses has continued throughout the year and it is possible for anyone who wishes to purchase to find suitable accommodation within a short period. The number of completed private houses rose to 381 in 1957, as against 365 in 1956, but the number in course of erection had fallen to 194 plus 7 for the Dowty Housing Association, as against 263 and 17 respectively as at the end of 1956.

The total number of houses completed in the District totalled 479, and based on an average of $3\frac{1}{2}$ persons per house, this means that 1676 persons have been provided with permanent accommodation during the year.

The efforts of this Council have been directed to providing housing at Ashchurch, Badgeworth and Winchcombe. These are main centres of population where the Council owned sites with services available.

The list of applications for houses is approximately the same as a year ago. The number of houses erected by private enterprise showed an increase during the year, but it is unlikely that this rate will be maintained.

The occupation of caravans is still increasing and more licensed sites came into use during the year.

Temporary Housing

At the end of the year 1957 the Council still controlled accommodation on former camp sites at The Park, Stoke Orchard, and Witcombe. The policy of the Council is to re-house the families from these sites as soon as permanent houses are available and to dispose of the buildings in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

Families occupying dwellings on temporary estates:-

a.	The Park, Stoke Orchard	...	75	
b.	Witcombe Grounds	...	<u>20</u>	95

The following figures will illustrate the work involved in dealing with these sites:-

	Year ending:	<u>31.12.56.</u>	<u>31.12.57.</u>
No. of dwellings		124	95
No. of Repair Orders completed by Contractors		144	136
No. of Repair Orders completed by the Council's staff		161	160
No. of Visits		479	522

From the above figures it will be noted that although the number of dwellings has reduced, there is no reduction in the amount of repairs necessary to these dwellings.

Repairs to Council Houses

Repairs to Council Houses are generally carried out by direct labour, and at the end of the year we employed a total of twelve men upon this work (not including part time of the Foremen). The following figures show the work carried out:-

	Year ending:	<u>31.12.56.</u>	<u>31.12.57.</u>
No. of houses repairable by the Council at the end of the year (others will be released from Contractors from time to time)		1223	1254
No. of Repair Orders completed by the Council's staff (an order may contain several items)		1424	1680
No. of Repair orders completed by Contractors including electricity and gas		836	623
Total		<u>2260</u>	<u>2303</u>
No. of houses overhauled and redecorated externally:			
a. By Contract		213	228
b. By Direct Labour		18	8
		<u>231</u>	<u>236</u>
No. of houses redecorated internally on change of tenancy		2	4
No. of tiled surround fireplaces fitted		33	65
No. of defective draining boards replaced		33	82
No. of defective sets of firebricks replaced		21	15
No. of defective firebaskets replaced		69	85
No. of defective firebars replaced		11	72

No. of defective sinks replaced	5	7
No. of defective sanitary pails replaced	4	9
No. of W.C. pans replaced	23	24
No. of defective taps replaced	5	36
No. of defective flush boxes replaced	3	9
No. of defective chimney pots replaced	4	7
No. of defective lavatory basins replaced	2	6
No. of defective W.C. seats replaced	35	72
No. of gate posts renewed	12	231
No. of roofs repaired	65	107
No. of eaves gutters repaired	39	83
No. of visits to Council Houses for various purposes ...	3940	3761
No. of cases where damage has been repaired at the tenant's expense	10	13
No. of applications to erect television aerials dealt with ...	155	153

Other Activities in Housing

During the year under review, the Council has made steady progress with its programme for dealing with unfit houses, and a further 52 houses have been removed from the list of Category V dwellings scheduled for Housing Act procedure, thus again exceeding the target of 41 houses per annum set for us by the Ministry.

This second instalment comprised in the main the parishes of Alderton, Ashchurch, Stoke Orchard and Teddington, which, at the re-survey in 1954/5 were shown to contain 44 Category V dwellings. Eight additional dwellings in the parishes of Bishops Cleeve, Coberley, Deerhurst, Elmstone Hardwicke (two), Twynning, Stanway and Winchcombe, were brought forward and dealt with on grounds of special urgency, bringing the total programme, as already stated, to 52 dwellings. Three of these, situated at Northway, were already demolished as the result of action initiated earlier, and ten had been improved and up-graded, leaving 39 still to be dealt with. By the end of the year appropriate action, as summarised below, had been taken in respect of each dwelling.

Summary

<u>Action taken</u>	<u>No. of houses</u>
Clearance Order	4
Compulsory Purchase Order	2
Demolition Orders	14
Closing Orders	2
Undertakings not to use for habitation ...	16
until rendered fit for that purpose	
Undertaking to execute works to render fit ...	1
for habitation	

By the end of the year good progress had been made with the re-inspection of the houses selected to comprise the third instalment, consisting of 60 dwellings in the parishes of Badgeworth, Coberley, Cowley, Leckhampton, Shurdington and Staverton.

On 1st. September this year the Housing Act 1957 became operative. Procedure henceforward will be under this Act, which is a consolidating measure in which are gathered together and re-enacted the provisions for dealing with unfit houses formerly contained in the Housing Act 1936, the Housing Act 1949, the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1953, the Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954 and the Slum Clearance (Compensation) Act 1956.

Housing Acts 1936 and 1957.

A.	(1) Houses demolished in Clearance Areas and unfit for human habitation ...	2
	(2) Houses demolished not in Clearance Areas but as a result of formal or informal procedure under Sec. 11 Housing Act 1936 or Sec. 17 (1) Housing Act 1957.	5
B.	Unfit houses closed under Sec. 11 Housing Act 1936 and Sections 10(1) and 11(2) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1953, and Sections 16(4) 17(1) and 35(1) Housing Act 1957.	14
C.	Unfit houses made fit and houses in which defects were remedied	
	(1) after informal action	19
	(2) after formal notice under Public Health Acts	1
	(3) after formal notice under Housing Acts	1
	No. of Housing Inspections or re-visits.	901
	<u>Improvement Grants</u>	

The Council has continued to encourage owners of properties to apply in appropriate cases for improvement grants. During the year 61 new cases affecting 71 properties were approved. The total number of cases approved since the Council became the Authority for dealing with these cases has risen to 205 cases affecting 229 properties, and the amount of grants approved totals £67,687 up to the end of 1957. The results have in all instances been very satisfactory and there is no doubt that this scheme has not only enabled properties to be brought up to a good standard, but it has been the means of retaining properties which possess features that are not present in modern houses. In addition, it has enabled accommodation to be retained and thus avoided the Council having to provide more houses for the occupants.

	Year ending:	<u>31.12.56.</u>	<u>31.12.57.</u>
No. of houses in respect of which Improvement Grants were issued:-			
	a. Improvements	63	60
	b. Conversions	6	11
No. of inspections regarding Improvement Grants		532	552

Building Byelaws

The work in connection with the Building Byelaws has continued to increase as will be seen by the number of houses erected or in course of erection:-

New Houses completed:	<u>31.12.56.</u>	<u>31.12.57.</u>
Council Houses	52	72
Bishops Cleeve Housing Association	-	11
Dowty Housing Association	4	11
Private Enterprise	365	381
Gloucestershire County Council	4	4
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total ...	425	479
	<hr/>	<hr/>

No. of houses converted to more dwellings or other buildings converted ...	5	3
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No. of houses in course or erection at:	<u>31.12.56.</u>	<u>31.12.57.</u>
Council ...	60	105
Bishops Cleeve Housing Association	11	-
Dowty Housing Association ...	17	7
Private Enterprise ...	263	194
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total ...	351	306
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Total number of plans received and considered	510	536
No. of plans resubmitted	76	73
No. of plans withdrawn	4	-
Total considered by Committee	582	609
Total number of plans approved - permanent	545	571
Total number of plans approved - temporary	3	2
Total number of plans disapproved	34	36
Temporary approvals renewed	17	41
Plans declared of no effect	-	86
Temporary buildings removed	2	4
No. of informal notices sent	-	12
No. of recommendations to Area Planning Officer	301	216
No. of visits to properties and sites	3586	3193

Each plan when received is checked and acknowledged, and if there is any discrepancy and time permits, the owner's or architect's attention is drawn to this with a view to the necessary alterations being made prior to consideration by the Committee.

Every endeavour is made to inspect work at the following stages - excavation of foundations; completion of concrete foundations; dampcourse; roofing; testing of drains; installation of fittings; and completion.

In a number of cases the owners of houses have obtained loans through the Council under the Housing Act 1949, and in such cases more frequent inspections are made, and the work is closely checked before certificates are issued for payments.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Under this heading has been included the work in connection with milk supply, infectious diseases, water supply,

nuisances, disinfestations, tents, vans and sheds, factories and workshops, pollution of streams, inspection of food premises, public conveniences and sewage disposal etc. The following figures show the activities during the year:-

	Year ending:		31.12.56.	31.12.57.
No. of complaints received or nuisances discovered.	70	74
Nuisances abated	60	68
Complaints not justified	4	4
Informal notices sent	11	27
Statutory Notices served	5	3
No. of visits in connection with the above items	273	373
No. of premises disinfected			1	2
No. of premises disinfested			13	4
No. of new drainage systems installed			55	58
Visits to new drainage systems			311	260
No. of visits to public conveniences			51	95
Infectious disease visits			28	21
No. of visits in connection with street numbering	276	130

Inspection of Foods

The following foodstuffs have been condemned:-

		<u>cwts.</u>	<u>qrs.</u>	<u>lbs.</u>	<u>ozs.</u>
Canned Fish	...		1	14	0
Canned Meat	...	2	3	18	4½
Canned fruit juice	...		1	4	15
Soups (Canned)	...		1	9	11½
Tomatoes "	...	1	2	23	7
Vegetables "	...	3	3	10	11
Fruit "	...	6	1	2	14
Chicken "	...			4	4
Coffee "	...			24	0
Cream "	...			1	2
Preserves "	...		1	6	10
Cheese	...				8
Malted milk	...			4	0
Sauce	...			13	6½
Total ...		16	1	25	13½

Tinned Milk ... 48 pints

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part:-

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	315	1	36	1184	330	Nil
Number inspected	315	1	36	1184	330	Nil

All diseases except
Tuberculosis & Cysticerci

Whole carcasses condemned - - 1 2 - -

Carcases of which some part
or organ was condemned 17 - - 43 9 -

Percentage of number 5.4% - 2.77% 3.8% 2.72% -

inspected affected with disease
other than tuberculosis & cysticerci - 17 -

Tuberculosis only:

Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	3	-	-	-	-
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis.	.95%	-	-	-	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned.	-	-	-	-	-

	cwt.	qrs.	lbs.
Total amount meat condemned =	6	1	22

Methods of Disposal of Condemned Food

Condemned food is disposed of as follows:-

- a. By burial in Lime.
- b. In suitable cases by disposal to knackers' yards by arrangement with the adjoining Public Health Authority.

No. of Special Examinations of a Stock or Consignment of food	None
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Food Premises

The number of food premises in the District is as follows:-

Bakers	6
Butchers	11
Cafes	10
Confectioners	3
Fishmongers	1
General Stores	42
Greengrocers	7
Grocers	9
Sweet Retailers	2
Hotels	9
Public Houses	43

Food and Drugs Act 1955 (Section 16(1))

No. of premises registered for the sale and storage of ice-cream	...	...	...	...	68
No. of applications considered and licences issued during the year	...	...	...	...	4
No. of premises registered for the preparation of preserved foods intended for sale	...	...	...	...	4

Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949 -1954

No. of dairies registered	...	...	9
No. of Dealers licences issued during the year authorising the use of the Special Designation			
(a) Tuberculin Tested	...	...	6
(b) Pasteurised	...	...	2
No. of Supplementary Licences issued during the year authorising the use of the Special Designation			
(a) Tuberculin Tested	...	...	7
(b) Pasteurised	8

Total No. of visits in connection with the Food and Drugs Acts	244
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Tents, Vans and Sheds

It will be noted that although the number of individual licences has been reduced by 29, the number of site licences increased and permit an additional 154 caravans in the area. There is therefore a net increase of 125.

The following figures relate to the activities in this section during the year:-

	Year ending:	<u>31.12.56.</u>	<u>31.12.57.</u>
No. of new applications for licences received	...	83	62
No. of new applications approved		66	52
No. of new applications disapproved		17	10
No. of previous licences renewed		103	74
No. of renewal applications disapproved		2	3
No. of visits to sites		496	366

Factories Act, 1937.

No. of insufficient sanitary conveniences rectified	Nil	2
No. of unsuitable sanitary conveniences rectified	1	1
No. of other offences rectified	Nil	1
No. of visits to factories	98	108

Sewage Disposal

During the year the scheme for providing sewers for a part of the parish of Staverton was commenced.

Due to the limitations upon capital expenditure the Council were unable to proceed with other schemes. Enquiries by the Ministry have been held and schemes approved in principle for The Reddings (Badgeworth) and Gotherington, and when the financial position eases the provision of sewers in these areas will undoubtedly receive attention.

During the early part of the year the Council was seriously concerned over flooding which occurred at Warden Hill in the Parish of Leckhampton and Castle Street, Winchcombe. In the former case this was due to an obstruction in the culvert under the Railway and in the latter silting and obstruction of the River Isbourne. Arrangements were made with the Land Drainage Authority in the latter case under which the river was dredged and obstructions removed. In the former case temporary works were undertaken and negotiations were in progress at the end of the year with the various parties concerned.

Samples of sewage effluents were taken periodically at the Council's sewerage works, and 46 samples were submitted for analysis.

No. of visits to Sewage Disposal Works etc. 1472

Water Supplies

During the year the number of samples submitted from the Council's supply totalled 23 and from private sources 28.

The number of new connections made to the mains during the year totalled 498 and of these 137 connections were made to the Council's mains, 334 to the Cheltenham Corporations mains and 27 to the Gloucester City mains.

No. of visits to supplies, mains etc. 152

The total length of cast iron and asbestos distributor mains owned by the Council of diameters from 2-9 inches is approximately 104 miles. In addition there are approximately $11\frac{1}{2}$ miles of galvanised, copper and asbestos pipes of between $\frac{3}{4}$ " and 2" diameter and $21\frac{1}{2}$ miles of supply and pumping mains from 3 to 6 inches in diameter.

Refuse and Salvage

Regular collections of house refuse are made throughout the District. Weekly collections are made in the built up areas, fortnightly in the villages, and monthly in the more remote and scattered areas.

The controlled method of tipping is undertaken and refuse is tipped at Shurdington, Snowhill, Winchcombe, Prestbury, and Twynning.

Refuse is collected weekly in the Parishes of Bishops Cleeve, Leckhampton, Prestbury, part Up Hatherley, and Winchcombe. Fortnightly collections are made in the remaining parishes of the District, with the exception of Alstone, Teddington, Charlton Abbots, Hawling, Elmstone Hardwicke, Leigh, Oxenton, Woolstone and Twynning, which are collected monthly.

No. of visits to tips etc. ... 340

Vehicles: 3 Shelvoke & Drewry 16/20 cu.yd. fore and aft tippers.

1 Bedford Compressmore 18/20 cu.yd.

Year ending:	<u>31.12.54.</u>	<u>31.12.55.</u>	<u>31.12.56.</u>	<u>31.12.57.</u>
No. of dwellings	7379	7826	8242	8714
Quantity of refuse collected (approx. cu.yds)	32000	33000	36000	34000
Distance travelled by vehicles (miles)	34400.	36445	37318	35731

During the year difficulties arose in connection with collection of refuse. It was not possible to find a market for waste paper and during the summer it was estimated that approximately from one half to two thirds of the space in the vehicles was occupied by cartons and waste paper and it was agreed that collection of waste paper and cardboard should be discontinued. This ruling was in operation for the latter part of the year and undoubtedly resulted in reducing the amount to be collected by several thousand cubic yards.

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

No. of informal notices served	...	3
No. of visits	...	66

PETROLEUM (CONSOLIDATION) ACT 1928.

No. of informal notices served	...	9
No. of licences issued to store petroleum		87
No. of visits	...	130

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

The arrangements whereby the Pest Operator deals with Tewkesbury Borough and the Cheltenham Rural District continues to operate in a very satisfactory manner.

The visits and treatments made during the year, by the Pest Operator, are as follows:-

	No. of Treatments to premises	No. of <u>visits</u>	No. of premises inspected (incl. clearing of <u>the baits</u>)
Cheltenham R.D.C. Premises	79	230	65
Other premises in the Cheltenham Rural District	313	861	304
Premises in Tewkesbury Borough	81	237	35
	<u>473</u>	<u>1328</u>	<u>404</u>

Total number of complaints received and visited: 60.

No. of visits by other members of the staff 55.

In addition to the above work, sewerage systems were treated as follows:-

During April, the systems at Bishops Cleeve and Winchcombe were treated, and only minor infestations were recorded in two and three manholes respectively.

In September the sewers at Bishops Cleeve and Winchcombe were test baited and found to be clear. No treatment was therefore necessary, as was the case in the Autumn of the previous year, and this is clear indication of the success of the method of treatment.

Tewkesbury Sewers were treated during April and September.

LOANS FOR HOUSE PURCHASE

This is another heading under which there is increased activity. The work involved is first in checking the plans and specifications prior to loan sanction, and afterwards inspection of the work to see that it is satisfactory, and certifying payment at the appropriate stages.

During the year advances were made in 40 cases, these totalling £52,047; the total advances to the end of 1957 was 214, the amount loaned being £310,004. These figures do not include those relating to the Bishops Cleeve Housing Association and the Dowty Housing Association.

SUMMARY

The foregoing report deals with the principal sections but during the year there were other fields of activity such as dangerous structures, Milk and Dairies Regulations, Street Numbering, inspection of housing sites, etc. These have entailed many visits and inspections.

The summary of the visits, apart from the maintenance of the Council's Water Supplies, or the Clerk of Works on Housing, Water or Sewerage schemes, is as follows:-

for the year :	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>
Temporary housing	424	479	522
Council House Repairs	2908	3940	3761
Housing Act Inspections	794	574	901
Improvements Grants	430	532	552
Building Byelaws	2932	3586	3193
Public Health			
Nuisances, Statutory Notices etc.	281	273	373
New drainage systems	149	311	260
Public Conveniences	50	51	95
Infectious diseases	22	28	21
Street Numbering	37	276	130
Total carried forward	8027	10,050	9808

Summary (continued)

	for the year :	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>
Total brought forward		8027	10050	9808
Food and Drugs Acts		241	234	224
Tents, Vans and sheds etc.		305	496	366
Factories and Workshops Act		76	98	108
Sewage Disposal Works etc.		761	1317	1472
Water supplies		128	150	152
Refuse and Salvage		258	299	340
Public Rights of Way		89	112	66
Petroleum Act 1928.		107	121	130
Pest Destruction		1986	1701	1787
Miscellaneous Visits		356	407	284
Attendance at Meetings		85	77	94
		<hr/> 12419	<hr/> 15062	<hr/> 14851

No. of communications despatched from the
office during the year 4561

As will be seen from the above, the year has again been one of continued activity, and I wish to thank all members of the Council's staff for the good work they have done during the year, and for the friendly and close co-operation which has prevailed throughout with all departments.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council for the kindness and consideration which they have afforded when dealing with the work of the Department.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and
Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

E.H. ROSSER

Public Health Inspector and Surveyor.

